

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 01059 01 OF 03 241143Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /138 W

----- 073668

R 241059Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7347

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

AMCONSUL BELFAST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 01059

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U. K. (N. I.)

SUBJECT: NEW NI EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATION GETS
DOWN TO WORK

FOLLOWING TRANSMITTED BY CONSULATE GENERAL BELFAST:

BEGIN SUMMARY PERMANENT SECRETARY IN OFFICE OF CHIEF
EXECUTIVE TELLS US EXECUTIVE HAS TAKEN OVER ACTION
RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ALL CIVIL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS
FROM NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE, WHICH NOW DEALS MAINLY
WITH LAW AND ORDER BUT KEEPS WATCHING BRIEF ON OTHER
MATTERS. EXECUTIVE IS BUCKLING DOWN TO WORK; QUALITY
OF MINISTERS IS HIGH AND THEY ARE WORKING WELL
TOGETHER DESPITE OUTSIDE POLITICAL STRESSES. THOSE WITH
PORTFOLIOS SEEM TO HAVE HIGHER MORALE THAN THOSE WITH
VAGUE "OVERSIGHT" AND "COORDINATION" FUNCTIONS.
FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NI AND UK IS DIFFERENT
THAN BEFORE, BUT EXECUTIVE WILL BE INHIBITED
FROM MAKING DRAMATIC DEPARTURES BY NEED TO AVOID
OFFENDING WESTMINSTER WHEN NORTHERN IRELAND ESTIMATE
COMES UP. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRAM TO BE PUBLISHED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 01059 01 OF 03 241143Z

JANUARY 21. SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT FORMAL TRIPARTITE

CONFERENCE CAN TAKE PLACE UNTIL MARCH, AFTER ACTION ON ORGANIZATION OF COUNCIL OF IRELAND, STATUS OF NORTH, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT. BLOOMFIELD DISAGREES WITH VIEW WIDELY HELD HERE THAT IF COUNCIL OF IRELAND FAILS SDLP WILL STAY IN EXECUTIVE; THIS WOULD SPLIT SDLP. THERE NOW SEEMS TO BE WIDESPREAD PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF POWER-SHARING, BUT EXECUTIVE'S MEMBERS KNOW THEY ARE VULNERABLE TO CHARGE THAT VOTERS HAVE NEVER APPROVED OF EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL OF IRELAND. EXECUTIVE IS THINKING OF HAVING EITHER REFERENDUM OR GENERAL ELECTION IN A FEW MONTHS TIME AFTER NEW STRUCTURES ARE SEEN TO BE WORKING EFFECTIVELY AND FAULKNER'S NEW POLITICAL MACHINE IS PROPERLY ORGANIZED.
END SUMMARY

1' WE TALKED JANUARY 18 TO NEWLY-APPOINTED PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE, KEN BLOOMFIELD. HE IS AN ULSTERMAN BORN AND RAISED IN ENGLAND, CAREER NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL SERVANT, MENTIONED FAVORABLY IN THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER CPT. TERENCE O'NEILL, RECENTLY PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY IN THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE, CHIEF DRAFTER OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S GREEN PAPER OF OCTOBER 1972 ON THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF NORTHERN IRELAND, AND N.I. MEMBER OF TEAM OF THREE THAT DRAFTED WHITE PAPER.

2. BLOOMFIELD EXPLAINED THAT NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE HAS TURNED OVER TO EXECUTIVE ALL FUNCTIONS EXCEPT LAW AND ORDER AND OTHER SPECIFIED IN SCHEDULES 2 AND 3 OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND CONSTITUTION ACT 1973. MOREOVER, NEW SECRETARY OF STATE NEED NOT BE AS INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN INTERNAL POLITICS AS WHITELAW WAS. SECRETARY PYM AND HIS MINISTERS SPEND MOST OF THEIR TIME ON SECURITY MATTERS, BUT KEEP THEMSELVES FULLY INFORMED ON EVERYTHING THE EXECUTIVE DOES, PARTICULARLY WHEN IT HAS IMPLICATIONS WHICH COULD INVOLVE PYM'S RESPONSIBILITIES TO CABINET AND PARLIAMENT. BLOOMFIELD HIMSELF CONTINUES TO BE INVOLVED IN NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE AFFAIRS TO SOME EXTENT, AND MUCH OF WHAT HE LEARNS THERE HE KEEPS TO HIMSELF. COMPLEMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE REMAINS NEARLY AS LARGE AS IT WAS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LONDON 01059 01 OF 03 241143Z

BEFORE JANUARY 1, THOUGH HOPEFULLY IT WILL DIMINISH AS EXECUTIVE GETS GOING. ONE OF PYM'S MINISTERS (DAVID HOWELL) HAS ALREADY BEEN REASSIGNED ELSEWHERE, AND OTHERS MAY ALSO BE REASSIGNED LATER, BUT ONE OF THEM HAS TO BE ON DUTY AT ALL TIMES TO TAKE DECISIONS IN SECURITY EMERGENCIES.

3. BLOOMFIELD EXPLAINED IN DETAIL INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF

EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATION. OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE IS
FORMER DEPARTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER. BLOOMFIELD KEEPS
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITT INFORMED AS FULLY AS HE DOES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE FAULKNER, BUT FITT IS NOT ACTING AS IF
HE HAD A PORTFOLIO TO DEAL WITH. ALSO WITHIN OFFICE OF
EXECUTIVE ARE OLIVER NAPIER, WHO REALLY HAS NO PORTFOLIO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 01059 02 OF 03 241201Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /138 W

----- 073789

R 241059Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7348

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

AMCONSUL BELFAST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 03 LONDON 01059

AS MEMBER FOR LAW REFORM BUT EXERCISES GENERAL OVERSIGHT
FUNCTION FOR THE ALLIANCE PARTY (BLOOMFIELD THINKS THAT
NAPIER COULD HAVE GOT A MUCH MORE SUBSTANTIAL JOB AND
THAT HIS FAILURE TO ASK FOR ONE WAS POLITICALLY NAIVE);
EDDIE MCGRADY, PLANNING AND COORDINATION (A SORT OF
MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO, WHO HAS ALREADY PREPARED
EXECUTIVE'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM AND MAY INVOLVE HIMSELF
IN INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION PROBLEMS); JOHN
BAXTER, INFORMATION SERVICES (REALLY A JOB FOR A
PROFESSIONAL, BLOOMFIELD THOUGHT; GIVING IT TO A
POLITICIAN HAS MORE TO DO WITH POLITICAL BALANCE THAN
ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY); AND CHIEF WHIP MAJ. WILLIAM
HALL-THOMPSON.

4. OTHER PORTFOLIOS ARE FAIRLY STRAIGHTFORWARD -- FINANCE, COMMERCE, ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, MANPOWER SERVICES, AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, COMMUNITY RELATIONS. BLOOMFIELD SAID LEVEL OF ABILITY AMONG MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATION IS HIGH; THEY ARE COOPERATING WELL DESPITE POLITICAL STRAINS ON THEM; AND MINISTERS WITH PORTFOLIO ARE BUCKLING DOWN TO WORK BETTER, WITH HIGHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 01059 02 OF 03 241201Z

MORALE, THAN THOSE WITH VAGUER "OVERSIGHT" AND "COORDINATION" FUNCTIONS.

5. BLOOMFIELD EXPLAINED NEW FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NI AND UK. NI CANNOT RAISE TAXES AND MUST OBTAIN ITS SHARE OF UK REVENUE FROM TREASURY. ALTHOUGH NOMINALLY NI IS FREE TO SPEND ITS BUDGET IN ITS OWN WAY, AS PRACTICAL POLITICAL MATTER COORDINATION WITH UK WILL BE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT FOR ANNUAL NORTHERN IRELAND ESTIMATE VOTE AT WESTMINSTER. ON OTHER HAND, LOCAL POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS WOULD PREVENT EXECUTIVE FROM MAKING DRAMATIC DEPARTURE FROM OLD STORMONT GOVERNMENT;S POST-WAR "STEP-BY-STEP" POLICY RELATING SOCIAL SERVICES BENEFITS TO THOSE IN GREAT BRITAIN. HOWEVER, EXECUTIVE MAY WELL CHOOSE TO SHIFT SPENDING FROM, SAY MOTORWAY CONSTRUCTION TO SOMETHING ELSE. (BLOOMFIELD MAY HAVE BEEN GIVING US A HINT OF EXECUTIVE'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRAM, WHICH HE SAID WOULD BE PUBLISHED JANUARY 21, THE DAY BEFORE ASSEMBLY GOES BACK INTO SESSION.)

6. BLOOMFIELD DOUBTED THAT FORMAL TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE COULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE MARCH. UNIONISTS WOULD NOT AGREE TO ATTEND UNTIL DUBLIN PUBLICLY REITERATED ITS RECOGNITION OF STATUS OF NORTHERN IRELAND, WHICH IT CANNOT DO SO LONG AS BOLAND'S CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGE IS STILL SUB JUDICE. STUDIES ON ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF IRELAND MUST BE COMPLETED; SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN ONE MEETING OF NORTHERN IRELAND AND REPUBLIC CIVIL SERVANTS ON THIS MATTER, AND BLOOMFIELD EXPECTS A MINISTERIAL MEETING SOON WHICH COULD GIVE IMPETUS TO THIS WORK. ALTHOUGH SUNNINGDALE COMMUNIQUE DOES NOT MAKE ACCEPTANCE OF ANGLO-IRISH LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON DEALING WITH FUGITIVE TERRORISTS A PRECONDITION FOR FORMAL CONFERENCE, IT IS OF SUCH GREAT POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO UNIONISTS AND ALLIANCE THAT PROBABLY "WE WOULD AT LEAST HAVE TO SEE WHERE THE COMMISSION WAS HEADING" BEFORE GOING TO TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE.

7. WE PUT TO BLOOMFIELD POSSIBILITY BEING CANVASSED BY
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LONDON 01059 02 OF 03 241201Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 01059 03 OF 03 241143Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /138 W

----- 073719

R 241059Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7349

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

AMCONSUL BELFAST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 03 OF 03 LONDON 01059

SOME FAULKNERITE UNIONISTS THAT DUBLIN GOVERNMENT COULD
NOT DELIVER ON RECOGNITION AND SECURITY MATTERS; THAT
UNIONISTS WOULD THEN REFUSE TO ACCEPT FORMAL ESTABLISH-
MENT OF A COUNCIL OF IRELAND; AND THEN SDLP WOULD BE
UNABLE
TO BRING ITSELF TO WITHDRAW FROM THE EXECUTIVE. BLOOM-
FIELD DISAGREED; SOME SDLP EXECUTIVE MEMBERS MIGHT BE
WILLING TO SOLDIER ON UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT
OTHERS WOULD NOT, AND IT WOULD SPLIT THE PARTY, WHICH
WOULD ULTIMATELY BE HARMFUL TO EXECUTIVE'S SUPPORT IN
PROVINCE.

8. FURTHER ON EXECUTIVE'S RESPONSIBILITY, BLOOMFIELD

THOUGHT THAT IDEA OF POWER-SHARING WITHIN NORTHERN IRELAND HAD BECOME WIDELY ACCEPTED, BUT THAT FAULKNER HAD LOST GROUND TO LOYALISTS ON COUNCIL OF IRELAND ISSUE COMPARED WITH HIS SUPPORT IN JUNE 1973 ASSEMBLY ELECTION. EXECUTIVE MEMBERS REALIZE THEY ARE VULNERABLE TO CHARGE THAT VOTERS HAD NOT ENVISAGED, AND DO NOT NOW APPROVE, DEVELOPMENTS OF PAST FEW MONTHS. EXECUTIVE ENVISAGES EITHER REFERENDUM (WHICH BLOOMFIELD CONTENDS COULD BE DONE ON AUTHORITY OF ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE, IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 01059 03 OF 03 241143Z

SECRETARY OF STATE DID NOT OBJECT) OR A GENERAL ELECTION, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE A DISSOLUTION BY QUEEN ON ADVICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE. EXECUTIVE MEMBERS WOULD WISH TO WAIT FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, UNTIL EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL OF IRELAND CAN BE SEEN TO BE WORKING EFFECTIVELY, AND "FRANKLY, UNTIL BRIAN FAULKNER GETS HIS NEW POLITICAL ORGANIZATION FIRMLY ESTABLISHED."

ANNENBERG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON01059
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740119/aaaaarkb.tel
Line Count: 301
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NDUM OR GENERAL ELECTION IN A FEW MO, NTHS TIME AFTER
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jul-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <29 MAY 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW NI EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATION GETS DOWN TO WORK
TAGS: PINT, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005